United Nations A/58/484/Add.4

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 December 2003
English
Original: Spanish

**Fifty-eighth session**
Agenda item 94 (d)

# Environment and sustainable development: further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

## Report of the Second Committee*

*Rapporteur*: Mr. José Alberto **Briz Gutiérrez** (Guatemala)

## I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 94 (see A/58/484, para. 2). Action on sub-item (d) was taken at the 34th, and 40th meetings, on 12 November and 16 December 2003. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/58/SR.34 and 40).

## II. Consideration of proposals

### Draft resolutions A/C.2/58/L.30 and A/C.2/58/L.79

2. At the 34th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/58/L.30), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and recalling also its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/58/484 and Add.1-8.

03-66154 (E) 201203

"*Recalling further* its resolutions 51/183 of 16 December 1996, 52/202 of 18 December 1997 and 53/189 of 15 December 1998, the review document adopted by the Assembly at its twenty-second special session, and its resolutions 54/224 of 22 December 1999, 55/199 of 20 December 2000, 55/202 of 20 December 2000, 56/198 of 21 December 2001 and 57/262 of 20 December 2002,

"*Recalling* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in particular the emphasis given to small island developing States in its chapter VII, as well as the references to the specific needs of small island developing States contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Monterrey Consensus,

"*Recalling* its decision to convene an international meeting in 2004, including a high-level segment, to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, as called for in the Plan of Implementation,

"*Welcoming* the preparatory activities undertaken at the national and regional levels for the international meeting and expressing its appreciation to the Governments of Samoa, Cape Verde and Trinidad and Tobago for hosting the regional preparatory meetings,

"*Reaffirming* the political importance of the forthcoming ten-year review of the progress achieved since the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and stressing that the risk from the vulnerabilities of and challenges to small island developing States has increased and requires the strengthening of cooperation and more effective development assistance,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Adopts* the provisional rules of procedure of the International Meeting to review the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and of the Declaration as contained in the note by the Secretary-General;

"3. *Decides* that the International Meeting shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations and States members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly and its conferences and with the rules of procedure of the International Meeting as contained in the note by the Secretary-General;

"4. *Reiterates* the urgent need for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and of the Declaration and the review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session to assist small island developing States in their efforts to achieve sustainable development;

"5. *Decides* that the International Meeting will be convened from 30 August to 3 September 2004, and will include a high-level segment to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, as called for in the Johannesburg Plan of

Implementation, and welcomes the offer of the Government of Mauritius to host the International Meeting;

"6. *Decides also* to hold two days of informal consultations in Mauritius on 28 and 29 August 2004;

"7. *Urges* that representation and participation at the International Meeting be at the highest possible level;

"8. *Decides* that the International Meeting will seek a renewed political commitment by the international community and focus on practical actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, taking into consideration new and emerging issues, challenges and situations since the adoption of the Programme of Action;

"9. *Endorses* Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/55 of 24 July 2003, in which it decided, on the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session, to convene an interregional preparatory meeting for small island developing States in Nassau, Bahamas, from 26 to 30 January 2004, and encourages participation at the ministerial level in the meeting;

"10. *Also endorses* the decision of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2003/55, on the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session, to convene during its twelfth session a three-day preparatory meeting for the International Meeting from 14 to 16 April 2004 for an in-depth assessment and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action and to finalize the preparations for the International Meeting, including its agenda;

"11. *Decides* that the preparatory meeting shall be open-ended and allow for the full and effective participation of all Member States as well as specialized agencies, and encourages relevant regional and international agencies and organizations and major groups identified in Agenda 21, to effectively contribute to, and participate in the preparatory meeting, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

"12. *Welcomes* efforts made at the national, subregional and regional levels to implement the Programme of Action, and takes note of the reports from the regional preparatory meetings for the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas and Caribbean regions of small island developing States;

"13. *Decides* that the associate members of the regional commissions that are small island developing States shall participate in the International Meeting in accordance with rule 61 of the provisional rules of procedure of the International Meeting as contained in the note by the Secretary-General;

"14. *Also decides* that the accreditation and participation of major groups, including non-governmental organizations, in the International Meeting shall be in accordance with rule 65 of the provisional rules of procedure of the International Meeting as contained in the note by the Secretary-General;

"15. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in consultation with small island developing States, to appoint a Secretary-General for the International Meeting;

"16. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the relevant United Nations agencies and organizations, and taking into account the submissions he may receive from bilateral, regional and multilateral donor agencies as well as from major groups, including non-governmental organizations, to ensure the timely submission to the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development of a synthesis report on the basis of the national, regional and interregional preparations and reports by small island developing States and by other parties;

"17. *Decides* that the necessary resources will be provided to the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, to ensure that the goals and purposes of the International Meeting receive the widest possible dissemination within Member States, major groups, including non-governmental organizations, and national, regional and international media, including through the Small Island Developing States Information Network, with a view to encouraging contribution to and support for the International Meeting and its preparatory process;

"18. *Expresses its appreciation* for the contributions made to the voluntary trust fund established for the purpose of assisting small island developing States to participate fully and effectively in the International Meeting and its preparatory process, as approved by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 2003/55 and decision 2003/283 of 24 July 2003, and invites all Member States and organizations to contribute generously to the fund;

"19. *Decides* to support the participation of developing countries in the International Meeting through the provision of adequate resources;

"20. *Welcomes* the coordinating efforts undertaken in the United Nations system through the creation of an inter-agency task force to enable the United Nations system to improve coordination and enhance cooperation on matters pertaining to the preparatory process and the International Meeting itself;

"21. *Calls upon* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, through the Division for Sustainable Development and its Small Island Developing States Unit, to undertake activities in both the preparatory processes and the International Meeting by, inter alia, enhancing coordination within the United Nations system as well as with other relevant multilateral organizations, including through increased institutional arrangements in order to ensure effective implementation, monitoring and follow-up of the outcomes of the ten-year review of the Programme of Action;

"22. *Also calls upon* the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to continue and to intensify its role of advocacy, in partnership with the relevant parts of the United Nations as well as with major groups, media, academia and foundations in the mobilization of international support and resources for the successful outcome of the International Meeting,

and for the follow-up of the outcomes of the ten-year review of the Programme of Action;

"23. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to strengthen the Small Island Developing States Unit pursuant to paragraph 8 of resolution 56/198 and paragraph 13 of resolution 57/262, through the immediate creation of a permanent post, to enable the Unit effectively to assist in the preparation of the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action and in the implementation of the outcomes of the International Meeting;

"24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", a sub-item entitled 'Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States: follow-up of the outcomes of the International Meeting to review the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action', and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session the report of the International Meeting."

3. At the 40th meeting, on 16 December, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Irena Zubčević (Croatia), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/58/L.79), which she submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.30.

4. At the same meeting, the attention of the Committee was drawn to a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.79, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/58/L.50).

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.79 (see para. 8).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representatives of the United States of America and Mauritius made a statement.

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.79, draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.30 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

## III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

### Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* the Declaration of Barbados[1] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[2] adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and recalling also its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 51/183 of 16 December 1996, 52/202 of 18 December 1997 and 53/189 of 15 December 1998, the review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,[3] and its resolutions 54/224 of 22 December 1999, 55/199 of 20 December 2000, 55/202 of 20 December 2000, 56/198 of 21 December 2001 and 57/262 of 20 December 2002,

*Recalling* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[5] in particular the emphasis given to small island developing States in chapter VII of the Plan of Implementation, as well as the references to the specific needs of small island developing States contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[6] and the Monterrey Consensus,[7]

*Recalling* its decision to convene an international meeting in 2004,[8] including a high-level segment, to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, as called for in the Plan of Implementation,

*Welcoming* the preparatory activities undertaken at the national and regional levels for the international meeting, and expressing its appreciation to the Governments of Samoa, Cape Verde and Trinidad and Tobago for hosting regional preparatory meetings,

*Reaffirming* the political importance of the forthcoming ten-year review of the progress achieved since the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of

---

[1] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] See resolution S-22/2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] See resolution 55/2.

[7] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[8] Resolution 57/262, para. 5.

Small Island Developing States, and stressing that the risk from the vulnerabilities of and challenges to small island developing States has increased and requires the strengthening of cooperation and more effective development assistance towards achieving the goals of sustainable development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[9]

2. *Approves* the provisional rules of procedure of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, as contained in the note by the Secretary-General;[10]

3. *Decides* that the International Meeting shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations and States members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly and its conferences and with the rules of procedure of the International Meeting;

4. *Welcomes* the efforts made at the national, subregional and regional levels to implement the Programme of Action,[2] and takes note of the reports of the regional preparatory meetings for the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean, South China Seas and Caribbean regions of small island developing States;

5. *Reiterates* the urgent need for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action, the Declaration of Barbados[4] and the review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session[5] so as to assist small island developing States in their efforts to achieve sustainable development;

6. *Decides* that the International Meeting will be convened from 30 August to 3 September 2004 and will include a high-level segment to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, as called for in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[5] and welcomes the offer of the Government of Mauritius to host the International Meeting;

7. *Also decides* to hold, if deemed necessary by an open-ended preparatory meeting, and if funded from voluntary resources, two days of informal consultations in Mauritius, on 28 and 29 August 2004, to facilitate the effective preparation of the International Meeting;

8. *Urges* that representation and participation at the International Meeting be at the highest possible level;

9. *Decides* that the International Meeting will seek a renewed political commitment by the international community and will focus on practical actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, taking into consideration new and emerging issues, challenges and situations since the adoption of the Programme of Action;

[9] A/58/170.

[10] A/58/567 and Corr. 1.

10. *Endorses* Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/55 of 24 July 2003, in which it decided, on the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session, to convene an interregional preparatory meeting for small island developing States in Nassau from 26 to 30 January 2004, expresses its appreciation to the Government of the Bahamas for hosting the meeting, and encourages participation in the meeting at the ministerial level;

11. *Also endorses* the decision of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2003/55, on the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session, to convene during the twelfth session of the Commission a three-day preparatory meeting for the International Meeting, from 14 to 16 April 2004, for an in-depth assessment and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action and to finalize the preparations for the International Meeting, including its agenda;

12. *Decides* that the preparatory meeting shall be open-ended and shall be held in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and the supplementary arrangements established for the Commission on Sustainable Development by the Council in its decisions 1993/215 of 4 March 1993 and 1995/201 of 8 February 1995, applied to all Member States and other participants, as was the practice in the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, while maintaining the provisions of the Commission in relation to travel assistance, in accordance with the provisions of Economic and Social Council decision 2003/283 of 24 July 2003;

13. *Encourages* associate members of the regional commissions that are small island developing States to participate in the International Meeting, and decides that their participation shall be in accordance with rule 61 of the provisional rules of procedure of the International Meeting;

14. *Decides* that the participation of major groups, including non-governmental organizations, in the International Meeting shall be in accordance with rule 65 of the provisional rules of procedure of the International Meeting;

15. *Also decides* that non-governmental organizations whose work is relevant to the subject of the International Meeting, that are not currently accredited by the Economic and Social Council may submit applications to participate as observers in the International Meeting, as well as its preparatory meeting, subject to the approval of the open-ended preparatory meeting;

16. *Takes note* of the appointment of a Secretary-General of the International Meeting;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the relevant United Nations agencies and organizations, and taking into account the submissions he may receive from bilateral, regional and multilateral donor agencies as well as from major groups, including non-governmental organizations, to ensure the timely submission to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its twelfth session of a synthesis report on the basis of the national, regional and interregional preparations and reports by small island developing States and other parties;

18. *Requests* that the necessary resources, from within existing resources, be provided to the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to ensure that

the goals and purposes of the International Meeting receive the widest possible dissemination within Member States, major groups, including non-governmental organizations, and national, regional and international media, including through the Small Island Developing States Information Network, with a view to encouraging contributions to and support for the International Meeting and its preparatory process;

19. *Expresses its appreciation* for the contributions made to the voluntary trust fund established for the purpose of assisting small island developing States to participate fully and effectively in the International Meeting and its preparatory process, as approved by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 2003/55 and decision 2003/283,[11] and urges all Member States and organizations to contribute generously to the fund;

20. *Encourages* the full and effective participation of developing countries in the International Meeting, and invites donor countries and agencies to provide additional extrabudgetary resources, in particular through voluntary contributions to the trust fund, to facilitate their participation;

21. *Welcomes* the coordinating efforts undertaken in the United Nations system through the creation of an inter-agency task force to enable the United Nations system to improve coordination and enhance cooperation on matters pertaining to the preparatory process and to the International Meeting itself;

22. *Calls upon* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, through the Division for Sustainable Development and its Small Island Developing States Unit,[12] to undertake activities in both the preparatory processes and the International Meeting to enhance coordination and cooperation within the United Nations system as well as with other relevant multilateral organizations to ensure the effective implementation, monitoring and follow-up to the outcomes of the ten-year review of the Programme of Action;

23. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States[13] to fulfil its mandate and to advocate strongly, in partnership with the relevant parts of the United Nations as well as with major groups, media, academia and foundations, for the mobilization of international support and resources for the successful outcome of the International Meeting and for the follow-up to the outcomes of the ten-year review of the Programme of Action;

24. *Welcomes* the generous contributions by donors to provide staffing of the Small Island Developing States Unit, and calls upon the Secretary-General to explore practical options for strengthening the Unit, including through redeployment of resources, on a permanent basis during the biennium 2004-2005, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 56/198 and 57/262, with a view to facilitating the full and effective implementation of the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action and the outcomes of the International Meeting;

[11] See also A/C.2/58/4.

[12] As mandated by the Programme of Action, para. 123, and General Assembly resolution 49/122, para. 15.

[13] See resolution 56/227.

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States: follow-up of the outcomes of the International Meeting to review the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session the report of the International Meeting.

United Nations A/58/484/Add.5

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 December 2003
English
Original: Spanish

**Fifty-eighth session**
Agenda item 94 (e)

# Environment and sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

## Report of the Second Committee*

*Rapporteur*: Mr. José Alberto **Briz Gutiérrez** (Guatemala)

## I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 94 (see A/58/484, para. 2). Action on sub-item (e) was taken at the 24th, 27th and 37th meetings, on 3 and 6 November and 11 December 2003. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/58/SR.24, 27 and 37).

## II. Consideration of proposals

### A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/58/L.10 and A/C.2/58/L.72

2. At the 24th meeting, on 3 November, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, Japan and Mexico, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" (A/C.2/58/L.10). Subsequently, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, Tajikistan and the United States of America joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read as follows:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/219 of 22 December 1999, 56/195 of 21 December 2001 and 57/256 of 20 December 2002 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/63 of 30 July 1999, and taking note of Council resolution 2001/35 of 26 July 2001,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/58/484 and Add.1-8.

03-66187 (E) 201203

"*Emphasizing* that disaster reduction, including reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, is an important element that contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,

"*Noting* the relevant provisions of the Ministerial Declaration of the Ministerial Conference of the Third World Water Forum, held at Kyoto, Japan, on 22 and 23 March 2003, on water-related disasters,

"*Reiterating* that, although natural disasters damage the social and economic infrastructure of all countries, the long-term consequences of natural disasters are especially severe for developing countries and hamper the achievement of their sustainable development,

"*Recognizing* the urgent need to further develop and make use of the existing scientific and technical knowledge to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, and emphasizing the need for developing countries to have access to technology so as to tackle natural disasters effectively,

"*Expressing its deep concern* at the increasing number and scale of natural disasters within recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in developing countries,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

"2. *Invites* Governments and relevant international organizations to consider disaster risk assessment as an integral component of development plans and poverty eradication programmes;

"3. *Stresses* that continued interaction, coordination and partnerships among the institutions concerned are considered essential to address effectively the impact of natural disasters;

"4. *Recognizes* the importance of linking disaster risk management to regional frameworks, as appropriate, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development, to address issues of poverty eradication and sustainable development;

"5. *Also recognizes* the importance of taking measures to integrate a gender perspective in the design and implementation of disaster reduction strategies to improve their effectiveness;

"6. *Further recognizes* the importance of early warning as an essential element of disaster reduction, and underscores the outcome of the Second International Conference on Early Warning, held at Bonn, Germany from 16 to 18 October 2003, which provides a substantive contribution to the review of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action;

"7. *Decides* to convene the Second World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005 with the following objectives:

"(a) To conclude the review of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action, with a view to updating the guiding framework on disaster reduction for the twenty-first century;

"(b) To identify specific activities and means of implementation aimed at ensuring the fulfilment of relevant provisions of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation") on vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management;

"(c) To share best practices and lessons learned to tackle natural disasters within the context of attaining sustainable development;

"(d) To increase awareness of the importance of disaster reduction policies, thereby facilitating and promoting the implementation of those policies;

"*8. Accepts with deep appreciation* the generous offer of the Government of Japan to host the Conference, and decides that the Conference will be held at Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005;

"9. *Decides* to establish an open-ended intergovernmental preparatory committee for the Conference to review the organizational and substantive preparations for the Conference, to approve the programme of work of the Conference and to propose rules of procedure for adoption by the Conference, and also decides that the preparatory committee will meet at Geneva following the 2004 semi-annual session of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction and will hold a one-day meeting at Kobe;

"10. *Further decides* that the intergovernmental preparatory committee will have a bureau consisting of five representatives of Member States elected on the basis of equitable geographical representation;

"11. *Requests* the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to serve as the secretariat of the Conference and to coordinate preparatory activities, in close cooperation with the host country and the preparatory committee for the Conference, with the full support of the relevant departments of the Secretariat;

"12. *Invites* Member States, all United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other relevant intergovernmental agencies and organizations, in particular the members of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, to participate actively in the Conference, as well as its preparatory process;

"13. *Welcomes* contributions from all regions that could provide substantive inputs to the preparatory process and the Conference itself;

"14. *Encourages* effective contributions from major groups, as identified in Agenda 21, and invites them to seek accreditation to the Conference and its preparatory process and decides that their accreditation and participation will be in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the rules of procedure of the World Summit of Sustainable Development and the established practice of the Commission on the participation and engagement of major groups;

"15. *Decides* that the preparatory process and the Conference itself should be funded through existing budgetary resources, without negatively affecting programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

"16. *Encourages* the international community to provide the necessary financial resources to the Trust Fund and to provide the necessary scientific,

technical, human and other resources to ensure adequate support for the activities of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy and the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction and its working groups, as well as to facilitate the preparations for the Conference;

"17. *Expresses its appreciation* to those countries that have provided financial support for the activities of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction by making voluntary contributions to its Trust Fund;

"18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to allocate adequate financial and administrative resources, within existing resources, for the effective functioning of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy;

"19. *Requests also* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular on the state of preparations for the World Conference, under the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development'."

3. At the same meeting, the representative of Japan made a statement (see A/C.2/58/SR.24).

4. At the 37th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Irena Zubčević (Croatia), introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" (A/C.2/58/L.72), which she submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.10.

5. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairperson orally corrected operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution, by inserting the word "Hyogo" after the word "Kobe".

6. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Division of General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs read out a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.72 (see A/C.2/58/SR.37).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.72 as orally corrected (see para. 15, draft resolution I).

8. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Japan made a statement.

9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.72, draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.10 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

## B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/58/L.25 and A/C.2/58/L.67

10. At the 27th meeting, on 6 November, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Natural disasters and vulnerability" (A/C.2/58/L.25), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its decision 57/547 of 20 December 2002,

"*Taking into account* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on

Sustainable Development, adopted by the World Summit, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

"*Recognizing* the substantial increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and associated natural disasters, and expressing concern that this trend is likely to continue in the future,

"*Expressing its deep concern* at the enormous negative impact of extreme weather events and associated natural disasters, which continues to hinder social and economic progress, in particular of developing countries, including small island developing States, which bear a disproportionate share of the burden of economic, social and environmental consequences of disasters,

"*Taking into account* the various ways and forms in which all countries, in particular the more vulnerable developing countries, are being exposed to extreme weather events of global reach, such as the El Niño phenomenon,

"*Noting* that the global environment continues to suffer, thus creating additional vulnerabilities, in particular to developing countries,

"*Taking into account* that extreme weather events and associated natural disasters and their reduction must be dealt with in a coherent manner,

"1. *Takes note* of the separate section on the negative impacts of extreme weather events and associated natural disasters on vulnerable countries, in particular developing countries, contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, as requested by the Assembly in its decision 57/547;

"2. *Urges* the international community to continue to address ways and means, including through the promotion of cooperation and technical assistance, to reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters, including extreme weather events, in particular in vulnerable countries, through the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, which provides a framework for collaboration on the development of methodologies to systematically characterize, measure, assess and respond to natural disasters, including weather-related disasters, hazards and vulnerabilities, and encourages the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction to continue its work in this regard;

"3. *Encourages* the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, to enhance the coordination on the promotion of disaster reduction as well as to make available to the secretariats of the relevant United Nations entities information on options for natural disasters reduction, including weather-related disasters, hazards and vulnerabilities;

"4. *Encourages* the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to continue to address the adverse effects of climate change, especially in those developing countries that are particularly vulnerable, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and also encourages the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to continue to assess the adverse effects of climate change on the socio-economic and natural systems of developing countries;

"5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution in a separate section of his report on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction."

11. At the 37th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Irena Zubčević (Croatia), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Natural disasters and vulnerability" (A/C.2/58/L.67), which she submitted following informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.25.

12. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairperson made oral corrections to the draft resolution.

13. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.67 as orally corrected (see para. 15, draft resolution II).

14. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.67, draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.25 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

# III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

15. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

## Draft resolution I
## International strategy for disaster reduction

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/219 of 22 December 1999, 56/195 of 21 December 2001 and 57/256 of 20 December 2002 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/63 of 30 July 1999, taking note of Council resolution 2001/35 of 26 July 2001, and taking into due consideration its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

*Recalling also* the inclusion of the item "disaster management and vulnerability" in the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development,

*Emphasizing* that disaster reduction, including reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, is an important element that contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,

*Noting* the relevant provisions of the ministerial declaration of the Ministerial Conference of the Third World Water Forum, held at Kyoto, Japan, on 22 and 23 March 2003, on water-related disasters,

*Reiterating* that, although natural disasters damage the social and economic infrastructure of all countries, the long-term consequences of natural disasters are especially severe for developing countries and hamper the achievement of their sustainable development,

*Recognizing* the urgent need to further develop and make use of the existing scientific and technical knowledge to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, and emphasizing the need for developing countries to have access to technology so as to tackle natural disasters effectively,

*Expressing its deep concern* at the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact within recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in developing countries,

*Recognizing* the need to continue to develop an understanding of, and to address, socio-economic activities that exacerbate the vulnerability of societies to natural disasters and to build and further strengthen community capability to cope with disaster risks,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;[1]

2. *Invites* Governments and relevant international organizations to consider disaster risk assessment as an integral component of development plans and poverty eradication programmes;

3. *Stresses* that continued cooperation and coordination among Governments, the United Nations system, other international organizations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners, as appropriate, are considered essential to address effectively the impact of natural disasters;

4. *Recognizes* the importance of linking disaster risk management to regional frameworks, as appropriate, such as with the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[2] to address issues of poverty eradication and sustainable development;

5. *Also recognizes* the importance of integrating a gender perspective as well as of engaging women in the design and implementation of all phases of disaster management, particularly in the disaster reduction stage;

6. *Further recognizes* the importance of early warning as an essential element of disaster reduction, and recommends the implementation of the outcome of the Second International Conference on Early Warning, held at Bonn, Germany, from 16 to 18 October 2003, which highlighted the importance of strengthened coordination and cooperation to integrate activities and expertise of the various sectors involved in the early warning process and has contributed to the review of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action;[3]

7. *Decides* to convene a World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005, at the senior-official level, designed to foster specialized discussions and produce concrete changes and results, with the following objectives:

(a) To conclude the review of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action, with a view to updating the guiding framework on disaster reduction for the twenty-first century;

(b) To identify specific activities aimed at ensuring the implementation of relevant provisions of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[4] on vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management;

(c) To share best practices and lessons learned to further disaster reduction within the context of attaining sustainable development and identify gaps and challenges;

(d) To increase awareness of the importance of disaster reduction policies, thereby facilitating and promoting the implementation of those policies;

---

[1] A/58/277.

[2] A/57/304, annex.

[3] A/CONF.172/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

(e) To increase the reliability and availability of appropriate disaster-related information to the public and disaster management agencies in all regions, as set out in the relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

8. *Accepts with deep appreciation* the generous offer of the Government of Japan to host the Conference, and decides that the Conference will be held at Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005;

9. *Decides* to establish an open-ended intergovernmental preparatory committee for the Conference to review the organizational and substantive preparations for the Conference, approve the programme of work of the Conference and propose rules of procedure for adoption by the Conference, and also decides that the preparatory committee will meet at Geneva, following the 2004 semi-annual sessions of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, for up to two days each time, and that it will hold a one-day meeting at Kobe within the dates mentioned in paragraph 8 above, as necessary;

10. *Also decides* that the intergovernmental preparatory committee will have a bureau consisting of five representatives of Member States elected on the basis of equitable geographical representation;

11. *Invites* regional groups to nominate their candidates for the bureau of the preparatory committee by the end of January 2004, so that they can be involved in the preparations for the first meeting of the preparatory committee, and to notify the secretariat of the Conference of those nominations;

12. *Requests* the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to serve as the secretariat of the Conference and to coordinate preparatory activities, the costs of which will be funded extrabudgetarily through the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and in close cooperation with the host country and the preparatory committee for the Conference, with the full support of the relevant departments of the Secretariat;

13. *Understands* that the activities set out in paragraph 12 above will not hinder the other existing work and priorities of the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

14. *Invites* Member States, all United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other relevant intergovernmental agencies and organizations, in particular the members of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, to participate actively in the Conference, as well as its preparatory process;

15. *Welcomes* contributions from all regions that could provide substantive inputs to the preparatory process and the Conference itself;

16. *Encourages* effective contributions from major groups, as identified in Agenda 21,[5] invites them to seek accreditation to the Conference and its preparatory process, and decides that their accreditation and participation will be in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the rules of procedure of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the

[5] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

established practice of the Commission on the participation and engagement of major groups;

17. *Decides* that the actual additional costs of the preparatory process and the Conference itself should be funded through extrabudgetary resources, without negatively affecting programmed activities, and through specific voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

18. *Requests* the United Nations Secretariat to provide conference services for the preparatory process and the Conference itself, the costs thereof to be borne by the host country, on the understanding that the Secretariat will ensure that its existing human resources are utilized to the maximum extent possible, without further charge to the host country;

19. *Encourages* the international community to provide the necessary financial resources to the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and to provide the necessary scientific, technical, human and other resources to ensure adequate support for the activities of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy and the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction and its working groups, as well as to facilitate the preparations for the Conference;

20. *Expresses* its appreciation to those countries that have provided financial support for the activities of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction by making voluntary contributions to its Trust Fund;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to allocate adequate financial and administrative resources, within existing resources, for the effective functioning of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy;

22. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular on the state of preparations for the World Conference, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".

## Draft resolution II
## Natural disasters and vulnerability

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its decision 57/547 of 20 December 2002,

*Taking into account* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation[1] of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[2]

*Recognizing* the need to continue to develop an understanding of, and to address, socio-economic activities that exacerbate the vulnerability of societies to natural disasters and to build and further strengthen community capacity to cope with disaster risks,

*Noting* that the global environment continues to suffer degradation, adding to economic and social vulnerabilities, in particular of developing countries,

*Taking into account* the various ways and forms in which all countries, in particular the more vulnerable developing countries, are affected by severe natural hazards, such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and extreme weather events such as heatwaves, severe droughts, floods and storms, and El Niño/La Niña events, which have global reach,

*Expressing deep concern* at the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and associated natural disasters,

*Expressing deep concern also* at the enormous negative impact of severe natural hazards, including extreme weather events and associated natural disasters, which continues to hinder social and economic progress, in particular of developing countries,

*Reiterating* that, although natural disasters damage the social and economic infrastructure of all countries, the long-term consequences of natural disasters are especially severe in developing countries and hamper the achievement of their sustainable development,

*Stressing* that national authorities need to undertake disaster preparedness and mitigation efforts, in particular through the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, so as to enhance the resilience of populations to disasters and reduce the risks to them, their livelihoods, the social and economic infrastructure and environmental resources,

*Recalling* that the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction provides a framework for collaboration on the development of methodologies to systematically characterize, measure, assess and respond to natural disasters, including weather-related disasters, hazards and vulnerabilities,

*Taking into account* the fact that extreme weather events and associated natural disasters and their reduction must be dealt with in a coherent manner,

---

[1] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

*Noting* the need for international cooperation to increase the capacity of countries to respond to the negative impacts of all natural hazards, including extreme weather events and associated natural disasters, particularly in developing countries,

*Emphasizing* the importance of raising awareness among developing countries of the capacities existing at the national, regional and international levels that could be deployed to assist them,

*Taking note* of the outcome of the Second International Conference on Early Warning, held in Bonn, Germany, from 16 to 18 October 2003,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,[3] in particular the section on the negative impacts of extreme weather events and associated natural disasters on vulnerable countries, in particular developing countries, as requested by the General Assembly in its decision 57/547 of 20 December 2002;

2. *Urges* the international community to continue to address ways and means, including through cooperation and technical assistance, to reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters, including those caused by extreme weather events, in particular in vulnerable developing countries, through the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and encourages the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction to continue its work in this regard;

3. *Encourages* Governments to establish effective national platforms or focal points for disaster reduction, and to strengthen them where they already exist;

4. *Also encourages* Governments, in cooperation with the United Nations system and other stakeholders, to strengthen capacity-building in the most vulnerable regions, to enable them to address the socio-economic factors that increase vulnerability, and encourages the international community to provide effective assistance to developing countries in this regard;

5. *Encourages* the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction to enhance the coordination on the promotion of disaster reduction as well as to make available to the relevant United Nations entities information on options for natural disaster reduction, including severe natural hazards and extreme weather-related disasters and vulnerabilities;

6. *Encourages* the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[4] and the parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[5] to continue to address the adverse effects of climate change, especially in those developing countries that are particularly vulnerable, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and also encourages the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to continue to assess the adverse effects of climate change on the socio-economic and natural disaster reduction systems of developing countries;

---

[3] A/58/277.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[5] FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution in a separate section of his report on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and decides to consider the issue of natural disasters and vulnerability at that session, under the sub-item "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" of the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".

United Nations A/58/484/Add.6

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 December 2003
English
Original: Spanish

**Fifty-eighth session**
Agenda item 94 (f)

# Environment and sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

## Report of the Second Committee*

*Rapporteur*: Mr. José Alberto **Briz Gutiérrez** (Guatemala)

## I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 94 (see A/58/484, para. 2). Action on sub-item (f) was taken at the 24th and 37th meetings, on 3 November and 11 December 2003. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/58/SR.24 and 37).

## II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/58/L.14 and A/C.2/58/L.14/Rev.1

2. At the 24th meeting, on 3 November, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/C.2/58/L.14), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 54/222 of 22 December 1999, its decision 55/443 of 20 December 2000 and its resolutions 56/199 of 21 December 2001, 57/257 of 27 February 2003 and other resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/58/484 and Add.1-8.

03-66216 (E) 191203

"*Recalling also* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation') and the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session, held at New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002,

"*Noting* that one hundred and eighty-eight States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

"*Recalling* the provisions of the Convention, including the acknowledgement that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions,

"*Remaining deeply concerned* that all countries, particularly developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, face increased risks from the negative impacts of climate change,

"*Noting* that, to date, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has attracted one hundred and nineteen ratifications, including from parties mentioned in annex I to the Convention, who account for 44.2 per cent of emissions,

"*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

"1. *Calls upon* States to work cooperatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

"2. *Notes* that States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change strongly urge the States, in particular parties mentioned in annex I to the Convention, that have not yet done so, to ratify it as soon as possible;

"3. *Notes also* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and encourages cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

"4. *Encourages* the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity to invite the secretariat of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer to join its ongoing work;

"5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its subsidiary bodies in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005;

"6. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

"7. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

"8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the sub-item entitled 'Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind'."

3. At the 37th meeting, on 11 December 2003, the Committee had before it a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.14, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/58/L.44).

4. At the same meeting, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of the Member States of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a revised draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/C.2/58/L.14/Rev.1).

5. Also at the same meeting, a recorded vote was requested on operative paragraph 5 of the revised draft resolution (see A/C.2/58/SR.37).

6. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in which she explained her vote before the vote (see A/C.2/58/SR.37).

7. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted operative paragraph 5 of the revised draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.14/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 153 to 1, with no abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour*:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan,

Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against*:

United States of America.

*Abstaining*:

None.

8. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Italy (on behalf of the European Union) and Japan made statements in explanation of vote after the vote (see A/C.2/58/SR.37).

9. At the same meeting, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, made a statement.

10. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted the revised draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.14/Rev.1 as a whole (see para. 11).

## III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

11. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

### Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolution 54/222 of 22 December 1999, its decision 55/443 of 20 December 2000 and its resolutions 56/199 of 21 December 2001 and 57/257 of 27 February 2003 and other resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

*Recalling also* the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[1] including the acknowledgement that the global nature of climate

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions,

*Recalling further* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,[2] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[3] and the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session, held at New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002,[4]

*Noting* that one hundred and eighty-eight States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention,

*Remaining deeply concerned* that all countries, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, face increased risks from the negative impacts of climate change,

*Noting* the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the need to build and enhance scientific and technological capabilities, inter alia, through continuing support to the Panel for the exchange of scientific data and information, especially in developing countries,

*Noting also* that, to date, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[5] has attracted one hundred and nineteen ratifications, including from parties mentioned in annex I to the Convention, who account for 44.2 per cent of emissions,

*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[6] in which heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases,[7]

*Taking note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,[8]

1. *Calls upon* States to work cooperatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;[1]

2. *Notes* that States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[5] strongly urge States that have not already done so to ratify it in a timely manner;

---

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[3] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[4] FCCC/CP/2002/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.8.

[5] FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

[6] See resolution 55/2.

[7] Ibid., para. 23.

[8] A/58/308.

3. *Notes with interest* the preparations undertaken for the implementation of the flexible mechanisms established by the Kyoto Protocol;

4. *Notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[9] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[10] and encourages cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its subsidiary bodies in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005;

6. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

7. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind".

---

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[10] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

United Nations A/58/484/Add.7

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 December 2003
English
Original: Spanish

**Fifty-eighth session**
Agenda item 94 (g)

# Environment and sustainable development: sustainable mountain development

## Report of the Second Committee*

*Rapporteur*: Mr. José Alberto **Briz Gutiérrez** (Guatemala)

## I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 94 (see A/58/484, para. 2). Action on sub-item (g) was taken at the 24th and 37th meetings, on 3 November and 11 December 2003. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/58/SR.24 and 37).

## II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/58/L.22 and A/C.2/58/L.58

2. At the 24th meeting, on 3 November, the representative of Switzerland, on behalf of Andorra, Argentina, Austria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Peru, South Africa, Switzerland and Tajikistan, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Sustainable development in mountain regions" (A/C.2/58/L.22). Subsequently, Australia, Cameroon, Chile, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Timor-Leste and Ukraine joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read as follows:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 53/24 of 10 November 1998, in which it proclaimed the year 2002 as the International Year of Mountains,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/58/484 and Add.1-9.

03-66301 (E) 191203

"*Recalling also* its resolutions 55/189 of 20 December 2000 and 57/245 of 20 December 2002,

"*Recognizing* chapter 13 of Agenda 21 and all relevant paragraphs of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'), in particular paragraph 42 thereof, as the overall policy frameworks for sustainable development in mountain regions,

"Noting the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions ('Mountain Partnership'), launched during the World Summit on Sustainable Development with the committed support of thirty-eight countries, fifteen intergovernmental organizations and thirty-eight organizations from major groups, as an important approach to addressing the various interrelated dimensions of sustainable development in mountain regions,

"*Taking note* of the Bishkek Mountain Platform, the outcome document of the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit, held at Bishkek from 28 October to 1 November 2002, which was the concluding event of the International Year of Mountains,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Year of Mountains, 2002;

"2. *Welcomes* the significant results achieved during the International Year of Mountains, which substantially increased awareness of and strengthened interest in sustainable development and poverty eradication in mountain regions, as well as acting as a catalyst for long-term effective action to implement chapter 13 of Agenda 21 and paragraph 42 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

"3. *Notes with appreciation* that a growing network of Governments, organizations, major groups and individuals around the world know that mountains are globally important as the source of most of the Earth's freshwater, as repositories of rich biological diversity, as popular destinations for recreation and tourism and as areas of important cultural diversity, knowledge and heritage;

"4. *Also notes with appreciation* the effective role played by Governments, as well as major groups, academic institutions and international organizations and agencies, in the activities related to the International Year of Mountains, including the establishment of seventy-eight national committees or similar mechanisms;

"5. *Appreciates* the work undertaken by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as the lead agency for the International Year of Mountains, as well as the valuable contributions made by the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations University, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund;

"6. *Underlines* that there remain key challenges to implementing sustainable development and eradicating poverty in mountain regions, as well

as challenges in the areas of national involvement, support for partnerships and mobilization of financial resources and, against this background:

"(a) *Encourages* the United Nations system to enhance efforts to strengthen inter-agency collaboration to achieve more effective implementation of chapter 13 of Agenda 21 and paragraph 42 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

"(b) *Also encourages* the continued establishment and development of mountain-related national committees, focal points and other multi-stakeholder mechanisms at the national level for sustainable development in mountain regions;

"(c) *Supports* national efforts, within the framework of national development plans, to develop goals and strategic plans for the sustainable development of mountains, as well as enabling policies and laws, programmes and projects;

"(d) *Encourages* transboundary approaches to sustainable development of mountain ranges and information-sharing in this regard;

"(e) *Also encourages* the collection and production of information and the establishment of databases devoted to mountains so as to capitalize on knowledge to support interdisciplinary research, programmes and projects for informed decision-making and planning;

"(f) *Supports* the development and implementation of global, regional and national communication programmes to build on the awareness and momentum for change established by the International Year of Mountains;

"(g) *Stresses* the importance of capacity-building and educational programmes to enhance awareness of good practices in sustainable development in mountain regions and the nature of relationships between highland and lowland areas;

"(h) *Calls for* the strengthening of mountain women's right to resources and their role in their communities and cultures, and in this context welcomes the recommendations of the Thimpu Declaration adopted at the Celebrating Mountain Women conference, held at Thimpu from 1 to 4 October 2002;

"7. *Notes* the entry into force of the nine Protocols of the Convention on the Protection of the Alps, which cover transport, regional planning and sustainable development, conservation of nature and the countryside, mountain farming, mountain forests, tourism, soil conservation, energy and dispute resolution, as an example of transborder cooperation for sustainable development in mountain regions;

"8. *Also notes* that a consultative process has been conducted with all Mountain Partnership stakeholders, in particular donor countries, with a view to determining the best options for further assisting all stakeholders in the implementation of the Partnership;

"9. *Takes note* of the conclusions of the first global meeting of the members of the Mountain Partnership, which met in Merano, Italy, on 5 and 6 October 2003 at the invitation of the Government of Italy;

"10. *Notes* that the next global meeting of the members of the Mountain Partnership will be organized during the second half of 2004, and welcomes in this context the offer of the Government of Peru to host the meeting;

"11. *Also notes* in this context that the Mountain Partnership is an umbrella mechanism that is dynamic, transparent, flexible and participatory in nature and that is open to all Governments, including local and regional authorities, as well as to intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations whose objectives and activities are consistent with the vision and mission of the Partnership;

"12. *Further notes* that Mountain Partnership members committed themselves to implement the Partnership in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/61 of 25 July 2003;

"13. *Invites* the international community and other relevant partners to consider joining the voluntary Mountain Partnership;

"14. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to continue their constructive collaboration in the context of the follow-up to the International Year of Mountains, taking into account the inter-agency group on mountains and the need for the further involvement of the United Nations system, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations University, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, international financial institutions and other relevant international organizations, consistent with the mandates specified in the Bishkek Mountain Platform;

"15. *Encourages* Governments, the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility and other relevant United Nations funding mechanisms, such as the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, as well as all relevant stakeholders from civil society organizations and the private sector, to provide support, including through voluntary financial contributions, to local, national and international programmes and projects for sustainable development in mountain regions;

"16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the status of sustainable development in mountain regions, including an overall analysis of the challenges that lie ahead and appropriate policy recommendations, under a sub-item entitled 'Sustainable development in mountain regions' of the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development'."

3. At the 37th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Irena Zubčević (Croatia), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Sustainable development in mountain regions" (A/C.2/58/L.58), which she submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.22.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.58 (see para. 7).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.58, draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.22 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

## III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

### Sustainable development and mountain regions

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolution 53/24 of 10 November 1998, in which it proclaimed 2002 as the International Year of Mountains,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 55/189 of 20 December 2000 and 57/245 of 20 December 2002,

*Recognizing* chapter 13 of Agenda 21[1] and all relevant paragraphs of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[2] in particular paragraph 42 thereof, as the overall policy frameworks for sustainable development in mountain regions,

*Noting* the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions ("Mountain Partnership"), launched during the World Summit on Sustainable Development with the committed support of thirty-eight countries, fifteen intergovernmental organizations and thirty-eight organizations from major groups, as an important approach to addressing the various interrelated dimensions of sustainable development in mountain regions,

*Taking note* of the Bishkek Mountain Platform,[3] the outcome document of the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit, held at Bishkek from 28 October to 1 November 2002, which was the concluding event of the International Year of Mountains,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Year of Mountains, 2002;[4]

2. *Welcomes* the significant results achieved during the International Year of Mountains, which substantially increased awareness of and strengthened interest in sustainable development and poverty eradication in mountain regions, as well as acting as a catalyst for long-term effective action to implement chapter 13 of Agenda 21[1] and paragraph 42 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;[2]

---

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[3] A/C.2/57/7, annex.

[4] A/58/134.

3. *Notes with appreciation* that a growing network of Governments, organizations, major groups and individuals around the world know that mountains are globally important as the source of most of the Earth's freshwater, as repositories of rich biological diversity, as popular destinations for recreation and tourism and as areas of important cultural diversity, knowledge and heritage;

4. *Also notes with appreciation* the effective role played by Governments, as well as major groups, academic institutions and international organizations and agencies, in the activities related to the International Year of Mountains, including the establishment of seventy-eight national committees or similar mechanisms;

5. *Appreciates* the work undertaken by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as the lead agency for the International Year of Mountains, as well as the valuable contributions made by the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations University, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund;

6. *Underlines* that there remain key challenges to implementing sustainable development and eradicating poverty in mountain regions, as well as challenges in the areas of national involvement, international cooperation, support for partnerships and mobilization of financial resources, and against this background:

(a) Encourages the United Nations system to enhance efforts to strengthen inter-agency collaboration to achieve more effective implementation of chapter 13 of Agenda 21 and paragraph 42 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(b) Also encourages the continued establishment and development of mountain-related national committees, focal points and other multi-stakeholder mechanisms at the national level for sustainable development in mountain regions;

(c) Supports national efforts, within the framework of national development plans, to develop goals and strategic plans for the sustainable development of mountains, as well as enabling policies and laws, programmes and projects;

(d) Encourages transboundary approaches, where the States concerned agree, to the sustainable development of mountain ranges and information-sharing in this regard;

(e) Also encourages Member States to collect and produce information and to establish databases devoted to mountains so as to capitalize on knowledge to support interdisciplinary research, programmes and projects and to improve decision-making and planning;

(f) Supports the development and implementation of global, regional and national communication programmes to build on the awareness and momentum for change established by the International Year of Mountains;

(g) Stresses the importance of capacity-building and educational programmes to enhance awareness of good practices in sustainable development in mountain regions and the nature of relationships between highland and lowland areas;

(h) Calls for the improvement of mountain women's access to resources and the strengthening of their role in their communities and cultures, and in this context takes note of the recommendations of the Thimpu Declaration adopted at the

Celebrating Mountain Women conference, held at Thimpu from 1 to 4 October 2002;

7. *Notes* the entry into force of the nine Protocols to the Convention on the Protection of the Alps as a contribution to regional cooperation for sustainable development in that mountain region;

8. *Notes also* the adoption and signing of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians by the countries of the region;

9. *Notes further* that a consultative process has been conducted with all Mountain Partnership stakeholders, in particular donor countries, with a view to determining the best options for further assisting all stakeholders in the implementation of the Partnership;

10. *Takes note* of the conclusions of the first global meeting of the members of the Mountain Partnership,[5] held in Merano, Italy, on 5 and 6 October 2003, at the invitation of the Government of Italy;

11. *Notes* that the next global meeting of the members of the Mountain Partnership will be organized during the second half of 2004, and welcomes in this context the offer of the Government of Peru to host the meeting;

12. *Also notes* in this context that the Mountain Partnership is a cooperation mechanism that is dynamic, transparent, flexible and participatory in nature and that it is open to all Governments, including local and regional authorities, as well as to intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations whose objectives and activities are consistent with the vision and mission of the Partnership;

13. *Further notes* that Mountain Partnership members committed themselves to implement the Partnership in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/61 of 25 July 2003, and calls on them to comply with the criteria and guidelines agreed in the decision taken by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session;

14. *Invites* the international community and other relevant partners to consider joining the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions;

15. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to continue their constructive collaboration in the context of the follow-up to the International Year of Mountains, taking into account the inter-agency group on mountains and the need for the further involvement of the United Nations system, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations University, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, international financial institutions and other relevant international organizations, taking into account the recommendations formulated in the Bishkek Mountain Platform;[3]

[5] A/C.2/58/8, annex.

16. *Encourages* Governments, the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility and other relevant United Nations funding mechanisms, such as the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[6] as well as all relevant stakeholders from civil society organizations and the private sector, to provide support, including through voluntary financial contributions, to local, national and international programmes and projects for sustainable development in mountain regions;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the status of sustainable development in mountain regions, including an overall analysis of the challenges that lie ahead and appropriate policy recommendations, under the sub-item entitled "Sustainable development in mountain regions" of the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".

---

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.